

IN THE DRAWINGS

Submitted herewith are revised drawings for Figs. 12 and 13. Each of these drawings contains the legend REPLACEMENT SHEET in the header. No new matter is added by these revised drawings. Further details of these new drawings is provided in the remarks section below.

REMARKS

A first non-final Office Action on the merits was mailed December 13, 2005. The present response is being filed timely.

Claim 1-6 are pending. Claims 2 and 4 has been previously withdrawn and claims 1, 3, and 5 are amended herein and presented for consideration on the merits.

Amendment to the Drawings

The new figures 12 and 13 which are presented here as substitutes for the original figures 12 and 13 are substantially the same as the original figures except, both have been amended to properly reflect the teachings of the specification. Specifically, the Examiner's attention is directed paragraph [0114] of the published application, wherein it is stated that:

the inner peripheral surface of the pockets 8 is formed such that the radially inner section 21, that exists further toward the center than the pitch circle P of the balls 6 that are held inside these pockets 8, is formed **in a partially cylindrical surface** (emphasis added)

As such, the drawings as originally filed could have been interpreted to be conical, that is having a changing diameter along the inner section 21, as it traversed from the inner side to the outer side of the retainer 7. The amendment to the figures clarifies that at least a portion of the inner section 21 is cylindrical, that is it has a constant diameter. As shown by reference to the specification, no new matter is added by this amendment to the Figures. Accordingly, entry of the foregoing drawing amendments is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, as indefinite. Both claims 1 and 3 have been amended to remove the language questioned by the Examiner. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection.

Rejection of Independent Claim 5

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,037,213 to Uchida et al. (Uchida). Claim 5 is also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by prior art Figs. 7-8.

With respect to both of these rejections, independent claim 5 has been amended to recite, "inclined side surface of the end edge being in a range from 30 degrees to 45 degrees."

It is respectfully submitted that neither Uchida nor Figs. 7-8 depict such an angle for the inclined side surface. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection based on Uchida and based on Figs. 7 and 8.

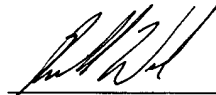
Rejection of Dependent Claim 6

Claim 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Uchida. Claim 6 is dependent on claim 5 and, therefore, claim 6 is allowable for the same reasons given for claim 5.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for examination and ready passage to allowance, which is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for examination or allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper, including any extension fees, may be charged to Deposit
Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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